

2019018591



State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Project # ABDSP 205

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation  
1416 Ninth Street  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**PROJECT TITLE:** Excavation of Possible Gomphothere Bones (ABDSP 205)

**LOCATION:** Anza-Borrego Desert State Park      **COUNTY:** San Diego

**DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:** This project encompasses the excavation and recovery of vertebrate fossils (site ABDSP Field Number PSM104). The site is located in the Hueso Formation in the Vallecito Badlands near the road into Arroyo Tapiado. The site is spread over a SE facing dip-slope bordered by a low ridge on its eastern edge. The fossil remains are presently exposed in at least two places within an approximately 60x100 ft area. Proper exploration and fossil recovery may necessitate the removal of a few cubic meters of sediment. Several square meters of surface may be disturbed—based on what has been observed. Likely depth of the excavation will be about 0.3 m. The sediments that will be displaced during excavation (coarse to fine, poorly-sorted sand and gravel, as well as flat sandstone cobbles) will remain at the site. With minimal re-contouring, the site after excavation will look essentially the same as it did before. Very few plants, and no medium-to-large plants (creosote bush, ocotillo, cacti) will be impacted by excavation.

Project conditions to avoid and/or minimize environmental impact shall be incorporated into this project. A copy of these requirements may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below.

**PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT:** California Department of Parks and Recreation

**NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:** Colorado Desert District

### EXEMPT STATUS:

- ☐ Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))  
☐ Statutory Exemption (Section )  
☒ Categorical Exemption

Class: 6

Section: 15306

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:** No potential for significant impact to the environment is anticipated in compliance with CEQA §15300.2. If the project is implemented as indicated within the project description including comments provided by CDPR specialists, then it is exempt under:

The Departmental List of Exempt activities according to CEQA §15300.4 as: "Archaeological investigations by Department Staff." (Class 6, Section 15306).

**CONTACT:** Terry Gerson  
District Services Manager  
Colorado Desert District

**PHONE NO.:** (760) 767-4960  
**EMAIL:** terry.gerson@parks.ca.gov

*Gina Moran*

Gina Moran, District Superintendent  
Colorado Desert District

Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

JAN 31 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

DATE

*January 29, 2019*